

# BUDGET CRUNCH: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

*Despite Facing Record Deficits and Debt Left by Bush,  
Democrats Remain Committed to Long-Term Plan for Fiscal Responsibility*

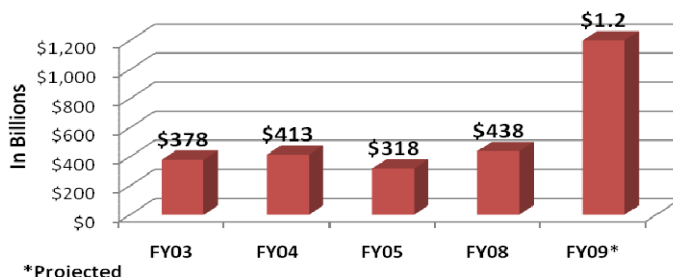
## President Clinton Created Surplus, President Bush Returned Deficits

*"We can proceed with tax relief without fear of budget deficits, even if the economy softens. Projections for the surplus in my budget are cautious and conservative."*

*– President George W. Bush, 3/27/01*

The Clinton administration delivered the nation into the 21st century with a record budget surplus. In eight years, President Bush and Republican Congresses squandered the budget opportunities they inherited and turned them into the worst deficits in American history. By implementing failed fiscal policies, the Bush Administration was responsible for depleting the surplus and creating the five largest deficits in our nation's history. Not only does this legacy tie our hands and make it harder for us to confront the current economic crisis, but it means that President Obama and Congress will have to make difficult choices, and the American people will have to make shared sacrifices to get our budget back under control and put our nation back on a sustainable path to economic growth.

**Bush Legacy:  
Five Largest Deficits in American History**



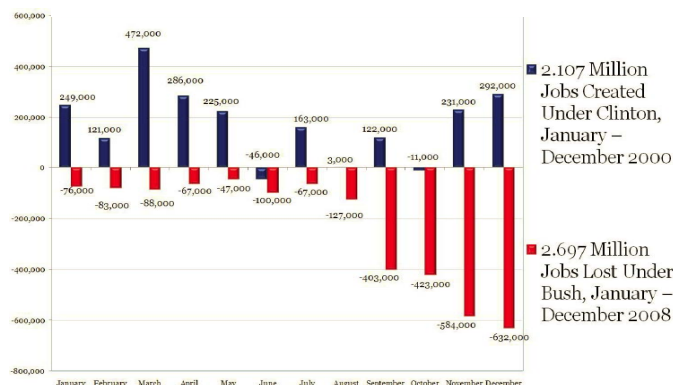
## President Obama Inherited Record Deficits, Debt & an Economy in Crisis

*"I'm going to be willing to make some very difficult choices on how we get a handle on this deficit."*

*– President Barack Obama, 1/06/09*

President Obama has inherited the Bush budget with trillions in projected deficits, an economy in shambles, rising debt, and broken government. President Obama has been working with Congress on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to jump-start the economy and repair the fiscal damage caused by the Bush Administration. President Obama has vowed a "new era of responsibility," but getting the budget under control is going to require hard choices – choices that will be reflected in the President's first budget.

**JOBS CREATED IN CLINTON'S FINAL YEAR  
V. JOBS LOST IN BUSH'S FINAL YEAR**



## Democrats Remain Committed to Long-Term Plan for Fiscal Responsibility

*"Democrats are committed to long-term fiscal responsibility to return our budget to balance and undo the damage caused by President Bush's record deficits and debts."*

*– House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 1/06/09*

Today, with a grim economic and fiscal outlook, President Obama and Congressional Democrats are working to develop responsible policies that address the current crisis facing our nation. Committed to long-term fiscal responsibility, Democrats will work through these challenges and return this nation to budgetary sanity – but it will take years to dig out from the deep fiscal hole we have inherited after eight years of Republican recklessness.